

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT
996 MAIN STREET
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
May 19, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairperson, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure, Paul Schaarschmidt, John Weeden; Chief Justin Lee, District Clerk, Julie Kelley, Mr. William Day, Mr. Nick Iannone, and Mr. Ron Mowchan.

Those not present: Board Member: Vice-Chairperson, Elwood Johnson

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairperson, Pasquale DeBernardo at 6:05 p.m.

This Special Workshop Meeting was held to review the Charter of the Hope Valley/Wyoming Fire District to review, discuss, and propose possible changes to the Charter.

The following changes were proposed:

-Page 7, Line Item 5, # 9, take out “elected officer” and replace it with “officer” or “member”. The lawyer reviewing the proposed changes may assist in deciding on which would be best.

-Page 9, regarding the matter of discipline. The Fire Association bylaws may be conflicting with the district. It was discussed that the Charter should take precedence. They would like to add that the Fire Association may handle minor disciplinary action and anything over and above should come to the Fire District.

-Page 9, Line Item 1, change 130 to “30” days. Remove Line Items 3 – 16, as it is repetitive. Line Item 18, Section E, change the word departments to “District”.

-Section V, Powers of the Eligible Voters, Section 1, ...who shall consist of...delete First Deputy Chief, Second Deputy Chief, Third Deputy Chief, Fourth Deputy Chief and leave in Board of Directors and Clerk.

-Page 4, Line Item 17, Section D, ...property and apparatus, add in, and reduction of taxes. The committee agreed no change.

-Page 5, Line Item 7, Number 6, just noting that this has been stated as a motion at the Annual District meetings but is stated within the charter. It will be removed as a motion for the next Annual District meeting.

-2001, Page 4, Line Item 28, “They shall exempt from taxation such property...”, this revision was made in 2001, Page 3, Line Item 9.

-Tax Assessment Board of Review, board listens to complaints and if disagree with decision next step is Superior Court. When you have a taxing authority, you cannot get rid of this.

-2001, Page 2, Line Item 30, Board of Directors shall appoint all committees. Delete all other verbiage.

Page 6, Line Item 27, Legal Council, no change.

-1985, Page 17, 18 & 19 (short pages), Board of Assessment Review, change to in the absence of a Board of Assessment, the Board of Directors shall assume those powers and duties.

-1995, Section 9, Line Item 10, change officer to “member”.

-1995, Section 9D, Line Item 9, change from 150 days to “30” days.

-Page 8, Line Item 18, Gives opportunity for an agent if we get larger, no change.

-Page 9, Line Item 10-16, Delete.

-Page 9, Line Item 18, change the words "Department" and change to "Fire District".

-2001 Page 5, The remaining number of District Deputy Chiefs shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall not be allowed to consist of more than five (5) Deputy Chiefs in total, no change.

-2001, Page 4, Line Item 14, 2001 version is correct.

-1989, Section C, delete, "At the next annual meeting..."

-1995, Section IX, Terms of Office, Section A, remove verbiage up until "All elections for members....." The Clerk shall serve for 1-year term, would like to take it out. Would like it to read that all board members to a 3-year term on a staggered basis with no more than two being elected in a year.

It was agreed to conclude the meeting for this evening at Section X, Procedure to Remove District Officers.

It was noted that Mr. Ron Mowchan would not be available for attendance at the Charter Committee meetings until September 2016.

Mr. William Day, presented to the members of the committee his letter of resignation to resign from the Charter Committee. The reason being is that he felt a conflict with another member of the School Committee that also sits on the Board of the Fire District. Seven (7) others along with himself are being sued for a perceived Open Meetings violation. He indicated that he loves this Fire District and will continue to work hard for this Fire District. He also apologized to the other board members for his resignation. Chairperson DeBernardo, instructed the District Clerk to place this as an agenda item at the next scheduled monthly board meeting to be held on Thursday, June 9th, 2016.

Chairperson DeBernardo asked if all in attendance could assist in finding a replacement for the open vacancy on the Charter Committee. The board will discuss this further at the next monthly board meeting.

Adjourn

The workshop meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk